WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A method for controlling access to a networked peripheral device by a walk-up user, wherein the networked peripheral device is accessible by both the walk-up user and a remote user based on centralized access management information, the method comprising:

receiving access management information for the walk-up user at the networked peripheral device from a centralized location;

determining, at the networked peripheral device, a level of access to the networked peripheral device that are available to the walk-up user based on the received access management information; and

allowing the walk-up user to access the to the networked peripheral device based on the determined level of access.

2. A method according to claim1, wherein the networked peripheral device is a multifunction peripheral device.

3. A method according to claim1, wherein the access management information is supplied by an authentication server once the authentication server authenticates the walk-up user based on authentication information received from the networked peripheral device.

4. A method according to claim1, wherein a user interface is devised by the networked peripheral device that is specific to the determined access level.

5. A method according to claim1, wherein buttons on a keypad on the device are enabled and/or disabled according to the determined access level.

6. A method according to claim 1, wherein the access management information is supplied by an authentication server that authenticates both the walk-up user and the remote user.

7. A method according to claim 3, wherein the authentication information is a username and/or password.

8. A method according to claim 3, wherein the authentication information is entered by inserting a smart card at the networked peripheral device.

9. A method according to claim 6, wherein the access management information is encrypted.

10. A method according to claim 3, wherein the authentication information received from the networked peripheral device is encrypted.

11. A computer-readable memory medium in which computer-executable process steps are stored, the process steps for controlling access to a networked peripheral device by a walk-up user, wherein the networked peripheral device is accessible by both the walk-up user and a remote user based on centralized access management information, wherein the process steps comprise:

a receiving step to receive access management information for the walk-up user at the networked peripheral device from a centralized location;

a determining step to determine, at the networked peripheral device, a level of access to the networked peripheral device that are available to the walk-up user based on the received access management information; and

an allowing step to allow the walk-up user to access the to the networked peripheral device based on the determined level of access.

12. A computer-executable program code stored on a computer readable medium, said computer-executable program code for controlling access to a networked peripheral device by a walk-up user, wherein the networked peripheral device is accessible by both the walk-up user and a remote user based on centralized access management information, said computer-executable program code comprising:

code to receive access management information for the walk-up user at the networked peripheral device from a centralized location;

code to determine, at the networked peripheral device, a level of access to the networked peripheral device that are available to the walk-up user based on the received access management information; and

code to allow the walk-up user to access the to the networked peripheral device based on the determined level of access.

13. An apparatus for controlling access to a networked peripheral device by a walk-up user, wherein the networked peripheral device is accessible by both the walk-up user and a remote user based on centralized access management information, said apparatus comprising means for performing the functions specified in any of Claims 1 to 10.

14. Computer-executable process steps stored on a computer readable medium, said computer-executable process steps for controlling access to a networked peripheral device by a walk-up user, wherein the networked peripheral device is accessible by both the walk-up user and a remote user based on centralized access management information, said computer-executable process steps comprising process steps executable to perform a method according to any of Claims 1 to 10.

15. A server for use in controlling access to a networked peripheral device by a walk-up user, wherein the networked peripheral device is

accessible by both the walk-up user and a remote user based on centralized access management information, the server comprising:

receiving a request for access policy information, the request including authentication information;

authenticating the user using the authentication informattion; and

transmitting access policy information for the user, in a case that authentication of the user is successful.

16. A server according to claim 15, wherein server retrieves authentication information for the user from a directory service.